

Chapter Eight

Ember

Since I needed to continue to work in the Magical Palace, I needed to change my appearance. Holding a spell would take too much power, so I decided to bleach my hair blonde and cut it. I also purchased color contacts. Now, while I followed him around the palace, I would have to make sure our eyes never met. Eyes to the oor when he’s near.

“Why are you doing all of this?” Mare questioned as I rinsed the bleach from my hair.

“What do you mean why? If he nds out who I am, I won’t ever be able to execute my plan. I need to stay hidden until I can uncover what really happened to them. And I wouldn’t even be here if it wasn’t for the protection spell on the Hybrid Palace. I would be there, taking down the strongest,” I retorted.

“Or you can track down the king and use the bond to get his help. And you've seen how he has changed the kingdom. Everyone here has nothing but good things to say about him.” She said and I sighed.

“I don’t need to catch feelings for a mate I didn’t even want. And he just so happens to be the King I needed to take down.”

“Em, I know you have been hell-bent on getting your revenge, but maybe this is a blessing. You can nd out what happened to your parents with the help of your mate. And then, when it’s all over, you can be happy with him.”

“Why can’t you be on my side,” I snapped at my cat.

"I am always on your side. I just don't want you to die. I love you Em. And he has the power to help you." She exclaimed.

"And how would that work? You want me to mate with the son of a monster and have his blood. The same blood that took everything from me," I yelled, frustrated with my cat. The only one I have left.

I got ready for bed. It's been a long day and I need to get up early for work tomorrow. I also have to be more careful now. Mates can't kill each other without killing themselves. So, I may need to befriend someone who will be willing to take out the king for me. But where would I nd someone like that?

Sleep didn’t come easily as I tossed and turned. My anxiety had hit a new high and I just wanted this to all be over. I’ve been dreaming about this for so long and now it was almost time. But I found myself dreaming of something I never knew was possible. And the idea scared me. I was prepared to die to get my parents justice, but now the idea of dying scares me. Could I really leave Mare to fend for herself? I love her and I never truly understood what was going to happen until now. I would leave the only family I had left. But then I was thinking how could I be with someone whose father took everything from me?

I lost so much and I don't even know why. I don't know why my parents were killed. But I've been chasing this for so long, I don't know anything else. This has always been the end goal and I don't know if I can just stop.

The morning came and I started my daily duties. The work isn't hard and the pay is really good. I make more money here in a week than a month at the motel.

"We could work here for a few months, nd out about your parents, and then we could go wherever we want to go," Mare said as she followed me around.

"But how is that justice for them? Their story should be heard. It needs to be heard. The king was a monster and the people should know what kind of blood they have running their kingdom." I protested.

"I'll always have your back, Em, but it would be nice to have some allies in this. Someone who would have your back and who would love you after this is all done. I just want you to be happy," she sighed.

We heard voices coming down the hallway as I was cleaning one of the rooms. Mare hid under the bed while I pretended to be cleaning beside it. I had to keep my head down.

"I don't care, I need her found. How can shifters smell their mates but we have nothing to aid us in the search for ours," I heard the king yell. My heart twisted painfully as I listened to him speak with Zayden.

"I know you are frustrated, Nate, but there's nothing I can do. Unless she comes forward, I don't know where to start looking. For all we know, she could be in a human city and that's why you have never seen her before."

"I know you are doing everything you can, but how am I supposed to feel that my mate just ran away? She knows who I am and she ran." King Nathan asked Zayden, their voices becoming quieter as they walked away from the room.

Mare looked at me as I listened to the despair of my mate. I know I would be heartbroken if mine ran from me and I was hurting the other half of my soul. The half I had been planning on killing for the last eight years. All because his father had to take away the only two people I had left in this world.

Mare jumped on the bed and licked away a tear.

"It will be okay, Em."